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**LENGTHY SENTENCES IMPOSED FOR
JANUARY 15, 2005 FIREBOMBING ATTEMPT**

*Defendants Targeted Baltimore Woman Who
Tried to Stop Them from Selling Drugs in Her Neighborhood*

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz sentenced two defendants convicted by a federal jury on December 13, 2005 of conspiracy to commit witness tampering, witness tampering by attempted murder, use of firearms in a crime of violence, using fire and explosives in a felony and making firearms, in connection with the January 15, 2005 arson of a residence located in the Harwood community of Baltimore, Maryland, as follows:

Nakie Harris, age 30, to 84 years and 5 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release; and
Richard Royal, age 21, to 60 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release .

At the sentencing U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz stated, "The conduct and nature of this crime speak for itself. Anything I say might diminish the importance of the sentence I am imposing. This city must use every resource it can to prevent this kind of conduct. Those resources have to include everyone who lives in the affected area."

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, "This case is an outstanding example of the effectiveness of coordinated state and federal law enforcement. Any criminal who tries to intimidate a witness will face swift prosecution and substantial punishment."

ATF Special Agent in Charge Theresa R. Stoop said, "Violent crime on our streets and in our communities is unacceptable. Violent criminals who threaten and intimidate those citizens brave enough to stand up to these criminals will not be tolerated. Our message to those who would intimidate a witness is this: Don't even think about it!"

According to trial testimony, on January 15, 2005, the defendants, along with co-defendants

Terrence Smith, age 24, Jackie Brewington, age 19, Andre Wilkins, age 32, Isaac Smith, age 26, and Shakia Watkins, age 19, all of Baltimore, conspired to attempt to kill a person to prevent such person from communicating information to federal law enforcement about the commission and possible commission of drug trafficking. The defendants purchased gasoline and beer bottles, and made "Molotov Cocktails." The defendants threw the "Molotov Cocktails" at the residence and used a getaway car to escape.

Terrence Smith was also convicted at the December trial of the same charges and will be sentenced on February 21, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. Brewington, Andre Watkins, Isaac Smith and Shakia Watkins pled guilty to witness tampering and use of fire and explosives to commit a felony prior to trial and face a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. Their sentencing has not yet been scheduled.

An additional defendant, Cedrick Bowman, age 24, of Baltimore was indicted on December 13, 2005 in this case on the same charges.

United States Attorney Rosenstein praised the investigative work coordinated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Baltimore City Fire Department; Baltimore City Police Department; and the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys A. David Copperthite and Kwame J. Manley, who are prosecuting the case.